

~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~

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1970 APR 25 11 00Z

10 APR 25 AM 6:07  
WHITE HOUSE  
SITUATION ROOM~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~ 250945Z APR 70 VIA CAS CHANNELS

FROM: AMBASSADOR BUNKER, SAIGON 224  
TO: THE WHITE HOUSE, HENRY A KISSINGER  
REF: A. WHS-0032  
B. SAIGON 199

1. I TOOK UP THE QUESTION OF THE BEECHER REVELATION AND WENT OVER THE WHITE HOUSE AND STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFINGS WITH THIEU YESTERDAY. I FOUND HIM MORE UPSET THAN I HAD EVER SEEN HIM. HE SAID THIS LEAD HAD BEEN "DISASTROUS". IT HAD GIVEN HIS CRITICS AMMUNITION WITH WHICH TO ATTACK HIM AND THEY HAD ALREADY STARTED. THEY WERE SAYING THAT IN SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO CAMBODIANS TO KILL VIETNAMESE HE WAS BETRAYING THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. OPPOSITION SENATORS, HE SAID, YESTERDAY HAD ATTACKED GENERALS TRI, QUANG, AND VIEN FOR CORRUPTION. THESE ARE MEN, ESPECIALLY VIEN AND TRI, WHO ARE FIGHTING THE WAR AND DOING IT WELL. THE MEN WHO ARE FEEDING INFORMATION, HE SAID, ARE THE SAME MEN WHO HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE VETERANS' DEMONSTRATIONS.
2. THIEU SAID THAT IN OUR STATEMENT THAT THE GVN HAD CARRIED OUT THE OPERATION WITH OUR KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL, THE USE OF THE WORD "APPROVAL" WAS UNFORTUNATE, FOR IN THE VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE IT HAD A CONNOTATION WHICH IMPLIES PRESSURE. I SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT SO AT ALL AND THE WORD "APPROVAL" HAD NO SUCH CONNOTATION IN ENGLISH.
3. WE FINALLY AGREED ON THE FORM OF STATEMENT WHICH HE HAD HIS PRESS SECRETARY NHA ISSUE LAST NIGHT. I AM SURE YOU HAVE ALREADY SEEN THE TEXT (SAIGON 6304). HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD CONFINE GVN REMARKS TO THIS ONE STATEMENT AND WOULD GIVE NO DETAILS AS TO NATURE OF WEAPONS, AIRCRAFT, OR OTHER DETAILS.
4. I THINK THIEU WILL BE ABLE TO RIDE THIS OUT, BUT I HAVE GONE INTO THIS IN SOME DETAIL TO SHOW HOW GREATLY DISTURBED HE WAS.
5. AS AN ADDENDUM TO THE PROBLEM OF DISCLOSURE OF HIGHLY CLASSIFIED MESSAGES, IN THE DOYLE STORY ON THE CHAU CASE, I WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY SIX MESSAGES CLASSIFIED SECRET (NODIS, LIMDIS, OR EXDIS) TO WHICH THE WRITER HAD HAD ACCESS.

State Dept. review completed

MORI c05099103

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY